

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ACCRA 03540 111157Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 IO-13 AGRE-00 SP-02 USIA-06
EB-07 NSC-05 EPG-02 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01
CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00
XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 L-03 PRS-01 DHA-02
/098 W

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R 111039Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA
TO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA PRIORITY
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7966
AMEMBASSY LAGOS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ACCRA 3540

ABIDJAN FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG AND AMBASSADOR SMITH;
MONROVIA FOR AID ADMINISTRATOR GILLIGAN AND I. COKER;
LAGOS FOR AGATT

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EPAP, OVIP (YOUNG, ANDREW; GILLIGAN, JOHN), GH
SUBJ:TALKING POINTS ON COCOA AGREEMENT

REF: A. ACCRA 3483 (NOTAL) (BEING REPEATED MONROVIA)
B. ABIDJAN 4733, PARA 6

1. REFTEL A INDICATES COMMISSIONER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS FELLI
WILL PROBABLY RAISE U.S. NON-SIGNATURE OF INTERNATIONAL
COCOA AGREEMENT (ICCA) WITH AMBASSADOR YOUNG. OTHER
GOG OFFICIAL MAY WELL ALSO RAISE IT WITH GOV. GILLIGAN.

2. IN THAT EVENT, WE SUGGEST FOLLOWING TALKING POINTS:
A. U.S. PARTICIPATED IN GOOD FAITH IN NEGOTIATIONS
LEADING TO FIRST AND SECOND (CURRENT) ICCA. HOWEVER,
RESULTANT AGREEMENT HAD MAJOR DEFECTS WITH WHICH WE COULD
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PAGE 02 ACCRA 03540 111157Z

NOT CONCUR. WE HAVE SAID REPEATEDLY WE WOULD PARTICIPATE
IN RENEGOTIATION OF ICCA, BUT CANNOT COMMIT OURSELVES IN
ADVANCE TO SIGN AGREEMENT, FORM OF WHICH UNKNOWN
AT OUTSET OF RENEGOTIATIONS.

B. WHILE U.S. IS NON-MEMBER ICCA, IT CONTINUES TO BE
LARGEST BUYER IN WORLD OF COCOA GENERALLY AND OF GHANAIAN

COCOA. FACT OF ICCA NON-MEMBERSHIP IN NO WAY AFFECTS
PRICES; US PAYS FULL, HIGH PRICE OF COCOA ON WORLD MARKET.

C. OUR MAJOR PROBLEMS WITH ICCA ARE THAT IT RELIES OVERLY
ON EXPORT QUOTAS, WHICH BUILD IN DISTORTIONS, AND NOT ENOUGH
ON BUFFER STOCKS; THAT PRICE RANGES (WHICH HAVE NEVER
BEEN IMPLEMENTED) APPEAR UNREALISTIC; AND THAT ICCA
MECHANISMS GENERALLY APPEAR UNWORKABLE. WE NOTE THAT
INTERNATIONAL COCOA ORGANIZATION, THE SECRETARIAT OF ICCA,
HAS NEVER OWNED A POUND OF COCOA YET HAS MANY MILLIONS OF
DOLLARS IN ITS BUFFER STOCK FUND.

D. CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAS NO PRE-CONCEIVED IDEAS ON
INTERNATIONAL COMMODITY POLICY, AND WILL EVOLVE ITS
COMMODITY POLICY ON COMMODITY-BY-COMMODITY BASIS.

E. WE DO NOT DESIRE THIS ESSENTIALLY MULTILATERAL MATTER
TO BE AN IRRITANT IN US-GHANAIAN BILATERAL RELATIONS, AND
DO NOT SEE RELEVANCE OF COMMODITY POLICY TO HUMAN RIGHTS
ISSUE.

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